

Service Leading

“ Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

Core Principles:

You are 'coordinating' the service for the day. Your job is to help the whole service hang together, with all the elements, so that people can be focussed on God's word and thus leave giving glory to God.

- a. Arrive early!
- b. Prepare early. The best services will take time to prepare!
- c. Get any changes in the order to the office early in the week
 - Feel free to vary the order (although note, some things go better after other things – there is a reason the prayer book has got set formats)
 - Think about whether you want a special element in the service (variety is good, but takes more preparation). E.g. a praise time at the start; a question time; an extended confession. Also note, that if you add something in, you'll probably need to take something out!
- d. Think about the words you will say at the start and the end – we want to be warm and welcoming to all people.
 - Start on time (9 or 6 – not 9.05 or 6.05!)
 - Finish on time (aim is about 1 hour 15)
 - Invite people to morning tea / evening supper

Preparation and Points to Remember:

- a. Read the readings for the week, and liaise with the preacher for overall theme.
- b. Prepare a short introduction / creative element. Like kids talks, this is not about giving a sermonette, but about getting people to think around the theme/passage we are studying:
 - Use a poem
 - Use some powerpoint pictures
 - Read a psalm
 - Use a prayer or 'litany' from the prayer book!
 - Vox Pops
 - Some kind of voting game
 - Read the key verse(s) of the main reading and state the theme
 - Avoid 'in-crowd' comments and illustrations which new people wouldn't understand
- c. Don't do a 'sermon summary', either at the end of the sermon or at the end of the service. The response to the sermon can be
 - Silent reflection
 - A reflection song
 - A 'performed' reflection song
 - The creed
 - The intercession time
- d. Liaise with the music leader
 - Who is starting the service? (you or they)
 - Do you have any special music requests?
 - Don't forget to announce when it is the offertory song
- e. Encourage the people who have served on the day with you.

Bible Reading

Core Principles:

- a. Practice! Out aloud! – The day you don't will be the day you get a list of Old Testament Kings... e.g. Joshua 12:7-24. – Even what look like boring readings are still God's word!
- b. The better you read, the easier the preacher's job is
- c. UseNRSV
- d. Announce the reading and page number
- e. Don't read the headings in the bible (they are not original)
- f. At the end of the reading say : "This is the word of the Lord' or "For the word of the Lord" or "here ends the first reading" or simply say nothing.

Prayer

Core Principles:

- a. Please prepare – don't 'wing it'.
- b. Unless you are a gifted upfront speaker, write your prayers out.
- c. The aim is about 5 minutes – not 1 and not 15!
- d. Formats to choose from:
 1. World, Australia, Church, Us
 2. Theme – e.g. bushfires / Missionaries
 3. Open prayer / Asking 6 people to come and pray
 4. Headings, with silences for people to pray
- e. Be varied. If you are a regular on our prayer roster, don't just default to the same prayers you always pray (even if they are good ones!)
- f. Mostly we finish with the Lord's Prayer
- g. Mostly intercession – asking God for things
 1. Its ok to have some adoration / thanksgiving
 2. If you have a confession, make sure there's not another one in the service
- h. No 'mini sermons'!
[Dear God, we all need to care for the poor more. Help us to spend time with the salvation army and serve in their kitchen. Remind us that Jesus cared for the poor and when we see a person in need help us to respond.]
- i. Be careful about political prayers. [It's good to pray for politicians and political issues, but be aware we have people of every political persuasion in the church – and some of them are passionate about their 'party'!]

Kids' Talks

Core Principles:

- a. Check with the Children and Families minister about the theme – generally we match the kids talk to the lesson for Sunday club for the day.
- b. Illustrate!!!! – This is not the children's sermon. Talk less, illustrate more
 1. If you get stuck for an illustration feel free to ring the vicar or the Children & Families Minister
 2. For example - ways to illustrate – 'God keeps his promises':
 - Giving them a lollie if they stand up and sit down
 - Awarding a streamer for the first one to run to the back and front (or the first one to do 5 pushups?)
 - Memory verse: 'Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was **fulfilled**.' (Joshua 21:45)
 - Two soft toys getting married (I promise to be your wife....)
 - Power point pictures of God's promises (to be with us; to hear our prayers; to take us to heaven)
 - Read a basic kids book – e.g. 'God's best promises for kids' (and put the pictures on the powerpoint.
- c. Make 1 point only – e.g. God keeps his promises. Remember, God keeps his promises. [and then stop]
 - [Not, God keeps his promises because he sent Jesus who showed us how to live and taught us stuff we need to know and God promises that he would save us from our sins, so Jesus died on the cross, but God promised death would not be the end, so he raised him from the dead, and God promises that Jesus will return one day.]
- d. Be short = 1-3 minutes
- e. Make sure the whole congregation can see and hear you – yes you are addressing the children, but all adults need to be able to hear and 'participate' too.
- f. Work out beforehand if you, the service leader or Lizzie are going to pray for the children before Sunday club.
- g. Note: you cannot touch children in the talk in our modern environment!